

# DAILY REVIEW OF THE ARABIC PRESS

State Dept. review completed



For Distribution to U.S. Embassy Personnel only.

EMBASSY OF THE U.S.A., CAIRO-EGYPT.

TUESDAY Evening August 17th, 1948.  
WEDNESDAY Morning August 18th, 1948.

TUESDAY Evening August 17th, 1948.

"Russia makes friendly overtures  
 to Hindustan and Nehru. America con-  
 tinues to support the Communist Zionists".

Under the above heading, Al Balagh, the Wafdist evening daily publishes an editorial by Al Mazny, in which he says: "Marshall Stalin sent Mr Nehru, Hindustan's Prime Minister, a cable in which he congratulated him on the occasion of Hindustan's first anniversary. Stalin, however, did not congratulate Pakistan, and in our opinion he congratulated Nehru because the latter is pro-communist and because he had made a statement to the effect that should war break out, Hindustan would follow the policy which would be advantageous to her.

"Nehru is not interested in the Arab and Moslem causes. His attitude towards Hyderabad is provoking to say the least".

The writer then leaves the subject of Hindustan and Russia's interest in Nehru to write about America's support for the Zionists. He says: "It is reported that Shortcock has sent Gilda Meyerson to Russia to assure the Kremlin that Israel would be glad to give Russia military bases in Palestine once Israel is properly established. Shortcock has also made the same promise to America. This is not surprising, for promises cost Israel nothing. But what is really surprising is America's continued support for the Zionists. More surprising still is the fact that the American government does not lack good advice. Several American experts on Middle East affairs have warned their government against the folly of supporting Zionism. Several Americans who were introduced to me by Maitre Fouad Sarrouf told me that they spared no effort in trying to persuade their government to change its Palestine policy. But America persisted in her folly and we have no choice but seek and accept aid from any quarter, I repeat any quarter, in our fight against Zionism".

- 2 -

WEDNESDAY August 18th, 1948.

Press comment on Ibn Saoud's refusal  
of American loan.

Under the headline: "King Ibn Saoud", Al Misri comments on King Ibn Saoud's reported refusal to avail himself of the \$15,000,000 which were granted to Saudi Arabia by the International Export Bank in America. According to Arabic press reports \$ 25,000,000 were granted to Saudi Arabia, but after she drew \$ 10,000,000 America happened to adopt an unfriendly attitude towards the Palestinian question and Ibn Saoud then refused to draw the balance "as my government borrows money only from friendly countries".

"King Ibn Saoud's attitude is highly commendable", writes Al Misri. "His government borrowed the money because she needed it and to refuse 3/5 of the money allotted to it shows a keen sense of duty towards Arabism. Ibn Saoud's enthusiasm for the Arab cause is too famous to mention. The bravery of his soldiers in the Palestinian battlefield and his attitude towards the question of the Saudi oil show that he will not shrink from any sacrifice, however big it may be, for the sake of Arabism. One of the greatest qualities of King Ibn Saoud is that he acts without speaking much. His refusal of the loan became known only after he has actually refused it. Ibn Saoud's actions speak louder than the words of many Arab leaders".

-----  
The Palestinian question as reviewed  
by the Arabic press.

Al Misri's Damascus correspondent says that Faros Al Khoury advised the Arab countries, when it became clear that America would continue to support Zionism, to cancel the oil concessions. He stressed the importance of oil as an effective weapon which could be used to induce America to change its Palestinian policy and also to use as a bait for other big nations. His advice went unheeded, complains Al Misri which concludes by saying that the Arab countries are at last beginning to take notice of Khoury's advice. It is expected that the Arab countries will take a unanimous decision within the next few weeks concerning the oil concessions, says Al Misri.

Al Misri publishes a message from its Geneva correspondent in which he claims that Ethiopia's Consul in Switzerland buys lethal weapons in Ethiopia's name and smuggles them to the Jews of Palestine. The writer has already mentioned this story in some of his messages to Al Misri but he explains that his message of to-day bears more details. Firstly the Consul's name is Burlo and he owns an arm factory which produces a type of gun called "The Infantry's gun" which he himself has invented. In 1935, the Emperor of Ethiopia bought arms from him which he used in his war with the Italians. When the Emperor was defeated and left Ethiopia, he took temporary refuge in Switzerland where he and Burlo saw much of each other. When the Emperor regained his throne, Burlo was appointed Ethiopia's Consul in Switzerland. Secondly,

- 3 -

WEDNESDAY August 18th, 1948.

Burle bought in Ethiopia's name a huge quantity of arms and ammunition from the Swiss arm factories and smuggled them to Israel. The last consignment sent by Burle to Israel was in June, 1948.

#### The Refugee problem.

The Arab refugee problem continues to be treated as top story of the day by the Arabic press. Count Bernadotte's appeal to Mr Marshall concerning "the great human disaster affecting 330,000 destitute Arab refugees from Jewish controlled areas", is given special prominence but there are no editorial comments.

The press also reports that a meeting was held yesterday at the Red Crescent hospital which was attended by Soliman Azmy Pasha (head of the Red Crescent Society), Tewfik Shusha Pasha (Under-Secretary for Public Health), Mr Saint Oban (Bernadotte's representative), and others, to discuss the Arab Refugee problem. The gentlemen present at the meeting decided to form a Higher Council for the aid of the refugees.

Al Ikhwani reports that according to a high Arab official of the Arab League, the Arab refugees number as follows: 160,000 in Egypt, 65,000 in Lebanon, 70,000 in Syria, 170,000 in Transjordan, and 100,000 in Iraq and Iraqi controlled parts of Palestine.

Al Assas publishes the following stories: Amman August 17 (A.N.A) - Interesting details regarding Palestine Arab refugees in Transjordan are contained in a lengthy report submitted to Abdulrahman Azzam Pasha, Secretary-General of the Arab League, by Falah Madadha Pasha, Transjordanian Minister of Finance and Chairman of the Committee for the Aid of Refugees.

It says that there are 72,500 refugees in Transjordan of whom 65,000 receive food and relief directly from the Transjordanian Government. Moreover, there are 100,000 refugees in the Ramallah and Jericho districts who are being cared for by the Committee, but the report states, this help cannot continue without aid from outside.

The report concludes with an appeal to the Arab States to realize the great dangers involved in the refugee problem.

Amman August 17 (A.N.A) - King Abdullah of Transjordan has cabled King Farouk, King Abdulaziz Ibn Saud, the Imam of the Yemen, the Presidents of Syria and the Lebanon informing them that Transjordan is now spending every day £ 8,000 or £ 240,000 a month for helping Palestine refugees, in Transjordan and in areas occupied by the Arab Legion in Palestine".

The King's message adds that this information is being given in order to reveal the true situation of the refugees at the present time.

- 4 -

WEDNESDAY August 18th, 1948.

The Arab refugee problem.  
The Arab League must hasten to take action.

Under the above headline, Al Ahram, the important independent daily, writes: "It is certain that the Arab refugees number no less than half a million. Such a problem cannot be solved by the Arab countries alone for their resources are insufficient. Nothing has been done so far to solve the problem which is becoming worse every day. Even if the Arab League had no business to deal with at present other than the Arab refugee question, we believe that this question is sufficiently important and pressing to warrant an immediate meeting of the Arab League Council. It is insufficient to contribute some money or medicines. Even if each refugee is given one loaf daily and nothing else, this would cost LE 5000. But food is not the only necessity. The refugees need shelter and medical aid.

"If the Arab League Council meets, each delegation should have beside the ordinary members two special members one representing the Ministry of Public Health and the other the Ministry of Supply. The Arab League Council should also raise the subject at the United Nations. Egypt was member of U.N.R.A. and paid her full share for helping European refugees. She therefore has every right to expect the international organisations concerned to aid the Arab refugees.

-----  
Jewish troops loot sacramental Vessels.  
Al Ikhwan expresses indignation.

Al Ikhwan publishes an A.N.A. report to the effect that the Greek Catholic Patriarch of Jerusalem has received through the International Red Cross a letter from the Greek Catholic authorities in Jaffa dated July 28th revealing acts of wanton sacrilege committed by Jews.

Al Ikhwan comments on the story by saying: "It seems that the cowardly Jews in Jaffa have turned their attention to the Christian community there. We are therefore justified in telling the Christian members of the United Nations: "It serves you right".

-----